State Labour Ministers' Conferences

2776. SHRI T. R. BALU :

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) how many State Labour Ministers' conferences were held during the last three years alongwith the date of the conference and also the recommendations made therein;

(b) what are the details of the recommendations implemented by the Central and State Governments so far; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what steps are being proposed to be taken to implement the decisions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) During the years 1984, 1985 and 1986, only one State Labour Ministers' Conference was held in Delhi on May 11, 1985. A statement giving the summary of conclusions/suggestions of Labour Ministers' Conference held on 11-5-1985 was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 272 answered on the 9th August, 1985.

(b) and (c) The conclusions/suggestions of the Conference require action on the part of both the Central Government and the States and Union Territories. The Conclusions/Suggestions concerning States/Union Territories have been brought to their attention for necessary follow-up action. As regards the action by the Central Government on items concerning it, action has been taken with a view to secure possible implementation and a statement on the implementation of some of the suggestions/conclusions is attached.

Statement

1. A Plan Scheme to strengthen the industrial relations monitoring unit has been approved.

2. The Company Law as amended provides that in the event of a company going into liquidation, workers' dues get 'pari passu' ranking with those of the secured creditors.

3. The Director General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation and Central Provident Fund Commissioner have issued suitable instructions to their Regional Directors and Regional Provident Fund Commissioners for taking necessary action for launching criminal proceedings under Section 406-409 of the IPC against the management which have recovered the workers' dues but have not deposited the same. They have also requested the State Governments to take suitable steps for speedy recovery of the outstanding dues.

4. The proposals for making suitable amendments in the Factories Act, 1948 have been finalised.

5. Instructions have already been issued to all the State Governments for the integration of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers with other anti-poverty programmes, as also the modalities in this regard.

6. The assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been enhanced from Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 6,250/- per bonded labour with effect from 1-2-1986.

7. As regards subsistence allowance in addition to Rs. 4,000/- during the interregnum period, it has not been found feasible to enhance the subsistence grant. Instead, the State Governments have been advised to formulate rehabilitation Schemes for the released bonded labourers immediately after release so that the released bonded labourers do not face problems.

8. The suggestion that central assistance for the rehabilitation of bonded labour should be released without insisting on utilisation certificates has been accepted.

9. The suggestion regarding the housing scheme for the beedi workers was brought to the notice of the State Governments. The State Governments are constructing houses for the economically weaker sections of the society. To supplement their efforts in this direction and particularly for the beedi workers, grants-in-aid is paid to them for construction of houses for those categories of people.

10. A pilot project for the benefit of child labour in the match and fireworks industry at Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu has start-

ed functioning since April, 1986 under the financial support of the Central Government.

11. In order to reduce disparity in minimum rates of wages, certain guidelines have been formulated and circulated to all the State Governments, etc. for comments.

12. A centrally sponsored scheme of matching (upto Rupees one lakh per exchange) for acquiring computer hardware to computerise Employment Exchanges is being implemented, to cover Employment Exchanges with a live register of one lakh or more in a phased manner. State Governments have been advised to send details of the computer systems being acquired by them so that Central assistance can be released under the scheme.

13. A centrally sponsored scheme for assistance to State Governments for setting up new ITIs for women/opening of new wings for women/starting of new trades in Women ITI's has been approved for operation from 1987-88 onwards. The Scheme of strenghening of NVTI/RVTI at Bombay and Bangalore also includes diversification to new areas like computer courses etc. for improving employability of women.

14. The Group of Labour Ministers examined the matters referred to them.

Smuggling at Bangalore Airport

2777. SHRI RAMSIGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that seven passengers were arrested during the last three weeks at Bangalore Airport by the intelligence wing of his Ministry for bringing in contraband electronic gadgets and textiles worth about 3 lakhs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken against each of them;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Big smuggling racket at Bangalore Airport" which was published in the Delhi edition of the 'Indian Express' of the 10th November, 1986;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Indian Express" daily dated 10-11-86 under the caption "Big smuggling racket at Bangalore airport". Factual details of the cases are as follows :

The officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted five cases of unaccompanied baggage cleared through Air Cargo complex, Bangalore and seized contraband consumer goods such as Calculators, Electronic goods, Wrist watches, Zip fasteners and textiles totally valued at Rs. 7.98 lakhs between the period from 30-9-86 to 3-11-86. Seven persons were arrested in this connection. The cases are under various stages of investigation/adjudication.

(e) Strict watch is being maintained at Air Cargo complexes attached to all international airprts to thwart any attempts of smuggling in this manner. Customs preventive and intelligence units attached to all international airports have also been alerted to gear up the preventive machinery.

Misappropriation of money by an employee of ITDC managed LMP Hotel, Mysore

2778. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Miniser of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 2.30 lakhs was misappropriated a couple of months ago by the employee of ITDC managed LMP Hotel, Mysore in league with its General Manager;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by the ITDC management to recover the amount from the concerned employee as also fixing the responsibility for this lapse ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) (a) to (c) During the course of reconciliation of trial balance for the year 1985-86, the General Manager of Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore had noticed certain shortages which on investigation was found to be of the order of Rs. 1.94 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 52,987/- has been recovered against